

DON GRAYSTON, DESERET NEWS



Svend Jensen inspects a section of honeycomb. Mites have taken a toll in past.

Mites killing Utah honeybees

Beekopers treat
their hives, but wild
colonies defenseless

By Gregory P. Kratz
Deseret News business writer

28 Apr
1998

If this is the Beehive State, where are all the honeybees?
An invasion of killer mites has

But Ed Bianco, entomologist for the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food, said he does not think mites have killed enough bees to affect pollination and reduce fruit and vegetable production.

"I think the wild colonies are probably dealing with the problem in a natural way and probably are actually dealing with it better than some of our raised bees," Bianco said.

Some beekeepers estimate that up to 90 percent of the state's wild bee colo-

MITES 4-28-98

Continued from A1

it reaches 90 percent.

Two kinds of mites arrived in the United States in the mid-1980s on bees imported from Europe.

The varroa mite, now present in 49 states, is an external mite that attaches itself to a larval or adult honeybee. The mite feeds on an adult bee's blood, and it can lead to deformities when bees are attacked during earlier stages of development.

The tracheal mite is internal. It gets inside a bee's tracheal tube and makes breathing difficult.

And to make matters worse, mites often carry viral and bacterial infections that can wipe out hives.

Bill Jones of Jones Bee Co. in Salt Lake City said honeybees in the United States have almost no resistance to the mites.

"If you don't treat, you don't have bees," Jones said. "Nobody treats the feral colonies, so we don't have them. And there's plenty of evidence to suggest that we don't."

Jones said people used to call him when swarms of wild bees were in their neighborhoods. He almost never receives those calls now.

Bryan Cox, a beekeeper in Prov-

idence, Cache County, said the mites are still around, but beekeepers know how to handle them.

"It's still a problem. It hasn't gone away," he said. "But it's more of a problem when you're taking shots in the dark."

The state's bee industry produced 1.6 million pounds of honey valued at \$1.3 million in 1996.

Bianco said beekeepers can use several chemicals and procedures to maintain that production and fight the mites.

"Certainly (mites) have an impact on bee populations and honey production, but we're better able to deal with it than we were 10 years ago," he said. "It's a threat to those who may not address the (problem), who do not take care of it as they should."

Apistan is the most popular product for killing varroa mites. Studies in Florida show that the mites are starting to build up a resistance to Apistan, but Bianco said other products soon should be available to fight the tiny, reddish-brown creatures.

In the meantime, he said, bees face a threat that is much larger than mites.

"There may be some drop (in bee numbers), and in part that may be due to a lot of the urbanization taking place along the Wasatch Front, in Utah and in general," he said.



Svend Jensen displays a strip used to control bee mites. Without treatment, wild colonies are dying — perhaps 90 percent of them.

DON GRAYSTON, DESERET NEWS



Esprit®

"Double Up" hi-wall canvas sneaker with padded collar. White in sizes 5½-10M, **35.00.**

Skechers®

"Womper" hi-wall sneaker in white, sizes 5½-10M, **40.00.**

Ralph Lauren®

Ralph Lauren®

Polo Sport "Stadium" hi-wall, lace-to-toe oxford with rubber toe guard. White in sizes 5½-10M, **59.00.** Also available in leather, **79.00.**

Available at Fashion Place and South Towne Center.

'Moonstruck' star to be boxing grand marshal

Tough-guy actor **Danny Aiello** will be the grand marshal of the 1998 Boxing Hall of Fame Parade of Champions.

A lifelong boxing fan, Aiello is a friend of 1998 inductee **Lou Duva**, parade co-chairwoman **Charlene Barres** said Monday.

The June 14 parade in Canastota, N.Y., will be held before the annual induction ceremony and feature more than 30 past and present boxing champions and ring personalities, including **Marvin Hagler**, **Joe Frazier**, **Floyd Patterson** and **Ken Norton**.

Aiello, who has appeared in such films as "Moonstruck," has a leading role in the upcoming miniseries "The Last Don."

BIRTHDAYS

For
Tuesday,
April 28



Author Harper Lee	72
Iraqi president Saddam Hussein	61
Actress-singer Ann-Margret	57
Talk-show host Jay Leno	48

Abby, now plays volleyball for the Edinboro University team.

geophysicist
reer as a te

Singers reign at fund-raiser for rain forests

Pop singers Elton John and Madonna perform Monday during the ninth annual Rainforest Benefit Concert at Carnegie Hall in New York City. Proceeds from the concert will be used to protect rain forests around the world. Other performers at the fund-raiser included Billy Joel, Sydney Poitier and Roberta Flack.

Ex-Teamster aide indicted in union fund-

WASHINGTON (AP) — A six-count indictment filed against the Teamsters' former political director left open the possibility that prosecutors could seek charges against other labor and political leaders.

A federal grand jury in New York on Monday indicted William Hamilton on charges stemming from the tainted 1996 union contest between incumbent Ron Carey and James P. Hoffa, son of labor legend Jimmy Hoffa.

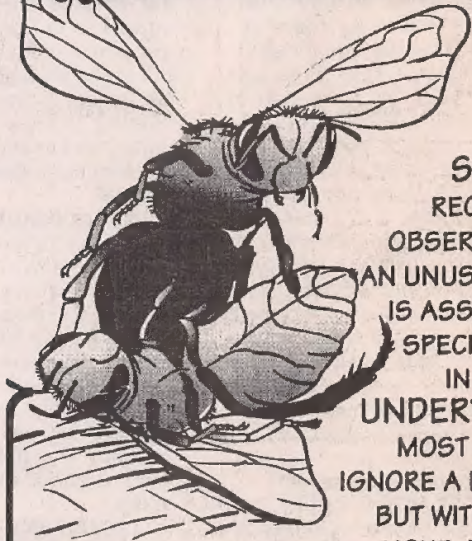
Carey's slim 1996 re-election

union fund-
tion coffers

Carey has
but he was
again and h
and two co
paign — Je
Ansara and
pleaded gu
year to con
funds.

Also on M
Michael Ch
way for Ho
rerun elec

UNDERTAKER BEE



SCIENTISTS
RECENTLY
OBSERVED THAT
AN UNUSUAL DUTY
IS ASSIGNED TO
SPECIFIC BEES
IN THE HIVE:
UNDERTAKING.

MOST BEES
IGNORE A DEAD ONE,
BUT WITHIN AN
HOUR AFTER A
HONEYBEE DIES, A SPECIALIZED BEE ARRIVES
ON THE SCENE, GRASPS THE DEAD ONE AND
DEPOSITS IT ABOUT 400 FEET AWAY. WERE IT
NOT FOR THIS FUNCTION, DISEASE-BEARING
VERMIN AND PREDATORS WOULD QUICKLY BE
ATTRACTED TO THE HIVE!

... Christopher Walken) — thought
wife, Helen (Sissy Spacek) — thought
Los Angeles had been nuked soon after
they disappeared into their shelter dur-
ing the Cuban Missile Crisis. PG-13.

A BUG'S LIFE: 3 stars. "A Bug's
Life" tells the story of an ant colony
that's invaded annually by a gang of
grasshoppers, who demand a major
share of the harvest. One of the ants,
Flik (voice of Dave Foley, who stars in
TV's "NewsRadio"), accidentally dispos-
es of the offering just before the
grasshoppers show up. It's up to him
to save his colony. Rated G

A CIVIL ACTION: 3 1/2 stars.
Steven Zaillian's exceptional courtroom
drama, based on Jonathan Harr's non-
fiction bestseller, starring John Travolta
as an ambulance chaser unexpectedly
transformed into a justice-seeker when
he represents the families of children
who might be victims of toxic dumping.
Excellent ensemble cast includes
Robert Duvall, David Thornton,
Kathleen Quinlan and Tony Shalhoub.
PG-13 (mature themes, profanity)

DOUG'S 1ST MOVIE. 3 stars. Yes,
it's TV blown up for the big screen, but
despite the stiff line-drawing animation
this good-natured little tale should
engage kids on the younger side. The
modest hero is 12-year-old Doug (of
TV's "Doug"), who becomes torn
between wanting to impress Patti
Mayonnaise, his long-time crush, and to
protect a sweet-hearted, buck-fanged
monster that he and buddy Skeeter dis-
cover in a lake polluted by a local
industrialite. G

... (Swingers) —
aimless energy of y
nightlife Los Angeli
takes place in a mo
the buzz; beware of

THE KING AND
flat look and muted
ed version of the a
and film is pretty m
but the famous son
We Dance?," "Hello
"Getting To Know Y
derful, they nearly r
material up to their
quite. G.

LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL
film finds bitterswe
midst of the holoca
Italy writer/director
Benigni is sent to a
camp. To keep his
cent, Benigni prete
in which the unifor
and the menial jobs
to accrue enough p
released. Rated: PG
wartime horror and
guage

LITTLE VOICE 2
Horrocks stars as a
with an eerie talent
cabaret greats — F
Holiday, Bassey —
ically-tinged charac
from Jim Cartwright
and Fall of Little Vo
Caine and Brenda L
at the tops of their
uations, adult them
banded metaphors